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BROWNBACK TO PRESIDENT: DON'T HOLD AMERICA'S MARRIED COUPLES HOSTAGE TO ELECTION-YEAR POLITICS

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback today responded to the president's proposed conditions for enacting Marriage Penalty Tax Relief.

"We should not hold America's married couples and working families hostage to election-year politics," Brownback said. "Unfortunately, this is what the president is doing by threatening to hold this bill hostage in the Senate.

"Partisan politics is continuing to burden America's working families. Those on the other side of the aisle continue to insist upon tying meaningful Marriage Penalty Tax Relief together with unrelated legislative items. This is not right for America's families who suffer from an extra tax burden of \$1,480 per year simply because they are married.

"Despite the president's announcement, I remain hopeful that we can move meaningful Marriage Penalty Tax Relief in the next few months. This is something the American people clearly deserve, and it is unreasonable to vote against such common sense Marriage Penalty Tax Relief – especially considering the surplus.

"Marriage is important, and stable families are important. Reducing and eliminating the Marriage Penalty Tax, very appropriately, recognizes the very important vocation of a stay-at-home spouse. While our approach reduces and eliminates the marriage penalty for many filers, it also sends an important signal to all of America that we recognize the institution of marriage and we intend to promote it as the fundamental building block of society. Enactment of Marriage Penalty Tax Relief should not be conditioned upon passage of unrelated legislation," Brownback said.